

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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*A plate of Chinese Chestnuts. We sell the trees.*

## Nut Trees for Cold Climates

### **Chestnuts**

Blight resistant grafted trees. Nuts in a hurry, and lots of them. Wonderful yard trees. A good money crop, a good forage crop. Nuts as good as native American nuts used to be.

### **Grafted Shagbark**

Yankee's favorite. Tree for the cold country. Wonderful nuts.

### **Grafted Hybrid Hickories**

Surprising and beautiful trees. Early bearers. Rapid growers.

### **Grafted English Walnut**

A favorite for 3000 years, now reawakening with new varieties.

### **Grafted Black Walnut**

Majestic, dignified trees. Nuts for you and your children and your children's children. Furniture for the great-great-grandchildren. Great for the farm lane. A good crop. Gives quality to a lawn.

### **Hardy Grafted Northern Pecans**

Majestic and fruitful shade. Will make your place a landmark. Nuts with flavor unsurpassed—can crack them in your hand.

### **Grafted Hiccans—Maple Chasers**

Beautiful, towering, gigantic trees that will add distinction to your place.

### **Pawpaw—A Neglected Native Tree**

Rich foliage, fruitful, and very ornamental. A striking tree to look upon.

### **Grafted Mulberry**

Cherry saver. Friend of boy and bird, bird that flies, bird that walks.

### **Grafted Honey Locust**

A self-harvesting cow-feed tree. Sugar tree of the future.

### **Persimmons—Native and Chinese**

Try one and you will wonder why you did not do it long ago.

## SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY

Write for descriptive circular

*Mail order only*

**Sales Office**

**Swarthmore, Pa.**

*(No trees there. Nursery is in Virginia)*

## How This Booklet Happened

I was born loving trees. The fact that a distant cousin who lived in Washington, D. C., sold to a neighboring grocer a barrel of English Walnuts almost every year from a tree in his yard, and got 25-30 cents a pound for them, quite heated up my youthful imagination. In 1895 I started farming on a dairy farm in northern Virginia, but I thought it would be a lot easier to make a living picking up English Walnuts from off the grass than it would be to serve as nursemaid to a lot of cows, morning and evening, Sundays and holidays; and so, the very first spring I planted out two acres of English Walnut trees, which I secured from a New Jersey nursery. I also planted some seed from the good tree in Washington, D. C.

The Washington seedlings grew nicely for the first summer, but for some mysterious reason they froze back the first winter. My two acres of New Jersey seedlings were 3 feet high when planted, 2 feet high the next year, 1 foot high the year after. They were seedlings, probably from imported nuts grown in sunny Italy and they winterkilled in the usual way.

Ten years later 25 acres of grafted paragon Chestnuts were killed by the blight.

After more than 50 years of study and experimenting with nut trees, I now have commercial plantings of Black Walnuts, and am starting commercial plantings of Chestnuts, Pecans, and Shagbarks.

I have learned quite a bit about nuts in that 50 years, and consequently am in a position to save you many years of experimenting by letting you benefit by what I have learned.

During the period of my experimenting a new era has come into nut growing in the northern United States—the era during which we have learned how to graft Walnuts and Hickories. We can now find the one rare tree of Shagbark, Shellbark, Walnut, Chestnut, Pecan, or Hiccan, and by budding or grafting make an orchard of them, just as they do of Baldwin apples or Navel oranges.

This matter of grafting nut trees is a recent acquisition. For years I experimented and got 2 or 3 per cent. One year I had such good success that I had a surplus of trees beyond my experimental needs and started selling them.

Now, as a result of my 50-years' experiments, I can make one general recommendation: Nut trees are grand for your

yard almost anywhere in the United States. By all means plant them. Some varieties are good for commercial planting.

## Shade Trees That Bear Nuts

Nut trees are more interesting than maples, as majestic as elms, as beautiful as any tree—and they also bear nuts, nuts that are good to eat or to sell. You cannot say that of maples or elms or any of the common shade trees that grow in our yards. Also nut trees are *fun*.

The time has now come to plant nut trees for shade in dooryard, lawn, lane, pasture, and poultry yard. I can fill out your grounds completely and beautifully, to say nothing of the interest, fun, and profit you will have from the nuts.

## Nut Trees for the North

I now have grafted nut trees ready for any tree lover from Maine to Michigan and Minnesota, from Boston to Omaha. from Washington to Memphis, and on down into the Cotton Belt. True, my nursery is in Virginia, but wait—it is in *northern* Virginia, only 95 miles south of the latitude of Philadelphia. It is on the Blue Ridge Mountains, at an *altitude* of 800 to 1400 feet. I have measured 26 inches of snow on the level. We have recently had temperatures of 10° F. or more below zero. Our absolute minimum of record according to the U. S. Weather Bureau is -20° F., which is lower than that of Philadelphia, New York or Boston. But, much more important than these, is the fact that I grow *northern* strains of trees. My Chestnut seeds and varieties came from North China. My Shagbark seed comes from Vermont and Quebec, the varieties from New York, Connecticut, Michigan, and Iowa. My Pecans are grafted on seedlings that grew from Indiana, Missouri, and Iowa seed. The varieties are northern Pecans from near the corner of Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. Some of my Black Walnuts grow on stocks from Minnesota seed. My Pawpaw seed is from Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario. My Honey Locust seed comes from Nebraska. My Persimmon seed comes from northern Missouri, with one variety that has stood the rigors of Iowa.

## Blight Resistant Oriental Chestnuts

If you are 45 or 50 years old and happen to have been brought up in the country almost anywhere between southern

Maine, Buffalo, and western North Carolina, you probably remember your childish delight in seeing the brown shell of Chestnuts glistening in the autumn grass and leaves, the thrill of their smooth surface as your fingers picked them up, one after the other, and filled your pockets and your youthful appetite.

Then you remember the blight, and the sickening sight of the bare arms of dead trees in field and forest.

Now comes the third stage. You can pick up Chestnuts again, if you want to, and you don't have long to wait, for we now have Blight Resistant Chestnut trees all ready for you to plant out in your yard next spring, and they will bear quickly. Their precocity is a surprise.

The blight came from China, and thus far no single American Chestnut tree has been found completely resistant to it, although many thousands of them still linger on, throwing out generation after generation of suckers to be stricken down by the blight when they have got from 10 to 20 feet high.

To get around this difficulty we have secured seed and trees of the Chinese Chestnut, which has lived for an unknown period of time with the blight and is therefore experienced in the difficult art of outliving it. They are *blight resistant*, but we cannot say that they are blight proof. Neither can we say that of apples.

Thousands of Chinese Chestnut trees have been grown in this country from imported seed, and the usual horticultural process has been applied to them. The best single trees from many thousands have been selected. Scions from these genius trees have been grafted into common trees, and thus we can have orchards of the genius nut trees exactly as we have of fruit orchards.

The test orchards of these Oriental Chestnuts and their hybrids show an almost unbelievable variety of trees and nuts—little, big, and middle-sized; sterile, prolific; bitter, sweet; worthless, grand. Out of the thousands a few varieties have been selected—varieties that are declared to be as good as any American Chestnut ever was, and this by United States Department of Agriculture experts who have no axes to grind, nothing to sell, only their reputations to maintain and the industry to aid.

The Chestnut is the most precocious and productive nut tree known to the Temperate Zone. Nearly all those that are

considered worthy of propagation bear every year. Some of them bear heavily every year. They can be depended upon to bear as soon as apples, some of them sooner. For example, in walking through my nursery I have picked nuts from grafted trees the third summer, even the second summer after grafting, when the trees were only shoulder high. This is not common, but it happens every year.



*A grafted Chinese chestnut tree in nursery. Note the many burrs. The boy holding the sheet is just 5 feet tall. Such productivity is not uncommon.*

## **The Northern Limit of the Chinese Chestnut**

Just how far north will the Chinese Chestnuts thrive? Will they thrive at your place? I wish I could answer these questions with exact and mathematical accuracy, but I cannot, so I give you all the facts I now have and leave the matter for you to work out.

After twenty years of experience I have never, so far as I know, lost a single Chestnut tree from winterkilling on my Blue Ridge Mountain slope in the Philadelphia climate. Chinese Chestnut trees have thriven and borne for years in Connecticut, some in Massachusetts, a few in southern Vermont. At the same time we get occasional reports of complete winterkilling in those same areas and latitudes. Why this difference? There are three main reasons.

One is: Does your land happen to be in a frost pocket? Few persons realize the profound climatic difference that may exist between your house and the meadow that lies a short distance below it and happens to have poor air drainage. The figures on page 6 show an almost unbelievable difference of temperature on a cold night. Indeed, the range was more than 12° F. in 50 feet difference in elevation—the difference in temperature between 33° (which did not freeze) and 21°, which if kept on long enough would have made ice thick enough to skate upon. I know two innocent looking fields near Washington, D. C. They are in a warmer climate than my Blue Ridge Mountain, but on one of them Chestnuts (which live perfectly for me) winterkill from time to time because it is a frost pocket, and on the other field, a short distance away, they do not winterkill, because it does not happen to be a frost pocket.

The frost pocket trees will get much lower temperatures on still nights in mid-winter. Trees in a frost pocket will have new growth frozen in late spring while the tree on the overlooking hill escapes.

Trees in a frost pocket will have their leaves killed in the autumn so that they cannot mature their fruit, while the trees on the nearby hill can breathe on for two or three weeks longer and finish up their year's work.

These early autumn freezes that catch a tree while still in active growth are particularly destructive because the tree, being full of sap, may freeze and split the bark. One year I had this happen to a number of Stayman Winesap apple trees under the following conditions. A careless stableman had manured them repeatedly through the summer because they were near the barn, and September had 11 inches of rain; in late October, an unusually early freeze. The heavily manured

trees perished; the ordinary orchard escaped. But a few trees at the outlet of roadside drains had benefited by an accumulation of soil and repeated soakings at every rain. They also perished of "winterkill." Winterkill is often spring-kill or autumnkill.

Second cause of winterkilling—late growth in autumn. See page 14 on English Walnut.

The third reason why we cannot speak yet authoritatively about the northern limit of the Chinese Chestnut is that different trees may differ in the length of the required *rest period* of the tree. Nearly all of our frost-climate trees need frost to put them to sleep in the autumn, and then they will stay asleep until they have had a certain number of hours of cold weather. Now different species *vary in the length of the required rest period*. And in some species the *different trees within the species vary* in this respect. For example, the Elberta peach requires 1000 hours of temperature at 45° F., or lower, during the winter to complete the rest period and resume normal growth under favorable spring temperatures, while the Hiley and other varieties require 700 hours of temperature of 45° F., or lower, in order to finish the rest period, which means that the Hiley will start growing in a warm spell in February, while the Elberta sleeps on, in warm winters.

It seems to be true that some varieties of the Oriental Chestnuts have a shorter rest period than the American Chestnut. It will take a number of years and much experimenting to find out the exact facts in this field. In the meantime we cannot say for certain that the Chinese Chestnut will grow in the exact northern limit of the American Chestnut. But I am propagating one variety from a tree that has stood unharmed for many years in southern Connecticut.

These trees resist winter better after they have had a few seasons to re-establish their root and top ratios and get settled into the new home.

All these nuts are of beautiful brown color like the native American Chestnut and slightly larger. On an eating test you would have great difficulty in telling which was American and which Asiatic.

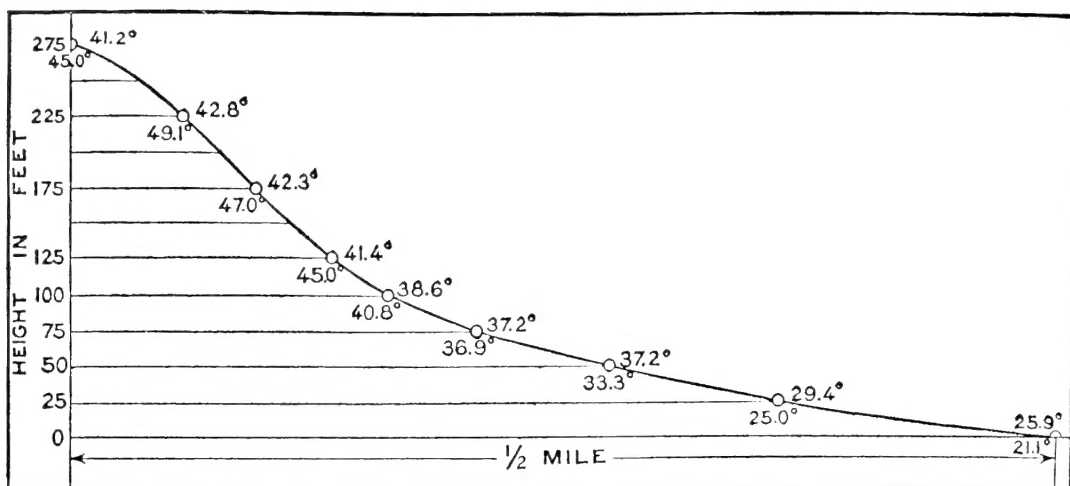
*Let the nuts shrivel a little to develop flavor before eating.*

For varieties see price list.





*Life size Fruiting branch of the Greenriver Pecan tree shown on page 9. We graft Greenriver cions only from this tree.*



*This figure shows how important it is to keep your trees away from a frost pocket. By watching a row of thermometers all winter a United States Weather Bureau observer got these remarkable facts from a California hillside. The figures above the curve, which represents the slope of the hill, show the average temperatures at the different elevations for 45 clear nights. Figures below the line show temperatures for one clear cold night. The temperatures near the top show the "Thermal Belt" so common on mountain slopes. From Men & Resources, an interesting book by J. Russell Smith, Harcourt Brace & Co., N. Y.*

## Soil and Fertilizer for Chestnuts

The Chestnut tree, more than any other nut tree, insists on well-drained soil. It will not stand wet feet. It will die in the meadow where the Pecan thrives. It does not particularly object to sandy soil, does not like lime, does not mind some acid, can survive in less fertility than any other nut tree but rejoices in plenty of plant food. One autumn I sent a wagon straddling the rows of little Chestnut trees in my nursery, spreading manure as it went. Next year those trees made from 3 to 4 feet of new growth.

It seems to be a fact that the abundantly fed Chestnut tree is more resistant to blight than a hungry one, so the argument for feed is 100 per cent plausible. Put it on in late fall or in the spring so that the tree can use it early and go into winter quarters with well ripened wood. Potash makes hardness, but a complete fertilizer, 4% nitrogen, 12% phosphorus, 4% potash (4-12-4) is good. And don't let grass crowd the young tree for the first three years of its life. Grass is the best tree killer known except fire and goats. If you are on the northern edge of Chestnut territory beware of manure

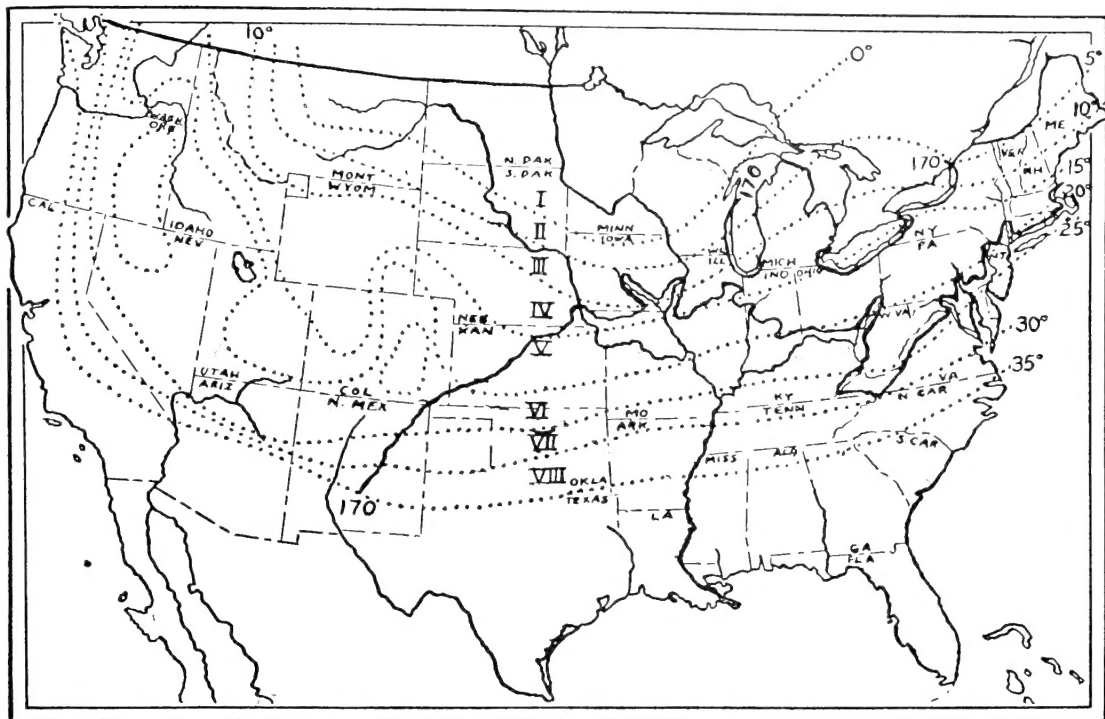
or other organic nitrogen. It may make late growth and winter kill. Use nitrate of soda and other inorganic nitrates.

## Plant Chestnuts

The Chinese Chestnut is a splendid dooryard tree. It is such fun to pick up the nuts. Why not plant several hundred trees for commercial Chestnut growing? I have sold several large orders for that purpose. In one case the purchaser expects to let the pigs harvest the crop. In this respect he will be duplicating the centuries-old experience of southern France, Spain, and Italy, where Chestnut orchards cover whole mountainsides and have supported a rather dense population for more than a thousand years. In these European areas the pig only comes in as a gleaner after the main crop has been picked up for human food and to serve as grain food for horses, cows, sheep and goats.

Some of the larger Japanese varieties, of which there are many, promise to give more grain food per acre than can be depended upon from corn. The burrs open, the nuts fall out, and the pigs will do the harvesting, provided we don't eat the nuts ourselves.





*Map of Climatic Zones from Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs by Alfred Rehder of Arnold Arboretum. The figures at ends of lines separating the zones show lowest average temperatures of the coldest single month on record. Look at page 6 and you will appreciate how elevation, air drainage, water bodies and other local conditions may have much influence in affecting the way trees will survive in particular locations. Therefore this map is only an approximate guide. The heavy line (170) marks average length of frost free season of 170 days. Lewisburg, Pa., is just above it on the Susquehanna River. Note this line again near Great Lakes. Remember that this line is an average. Some seasons are shorter and some are longer. In Pennsylvania, a careful study of the records shows that in one-fourth of the years the growing season is three weeks longer than the average. That fact makes it possible for a Pecan tree to come through with an occasional crop much farther north than it can be depended upon to ripen its nuts. But it is an ornament every year. So is every other tree on our list.*

## The Northern Pecan

If you want to make your place a distinguished landmark, plant two balanced Pecan trees of the same variety and give them a chance. I have seen these trees towering thirty feet above the tops of the oak forests in Indiana. I have seen them six feet in diameter, with more than 100 feet spread. They are truly lordly trees, and will bear nuts for centuries. One particular tree in southern Illinois was full of nuts when the first white man saw it in 1817. It is reported that it only missed three crops in the next 97 years, and it is still going strong. Ordinarily Pecan trees, like most apple trees, alternate their heavy and light crops.

Many think of the Pecan as a southern tree because trees producing fine nuts were propagated in the South and the industry started in the Cotton Belt. But the Pecan tree grows wild and ripens its nuts in southeastern Iowa, in southwestern Ohio, and thence downstream to the Gulf of Mexico. George Washington called them "Illinois nuts" because the ones he had came from Illinois. He is said to have been very fond of them, often carried them in his pocket and ate them at unexpected times. His diary reports the planting of these nuts, and the trees he planted at Mount Vernon are still thriving.

MONTHLY AVERAGE TEMPERATURES FROM U. S. WEATHER BUREAU  
CLIMATIC SUMMARY OF U. S.

	Altitude	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total above 50°
Ithaca, N. Y.....	928	44.8	56.7	65.8	70.4	67.9	61.7	50.2	72.6
Lewisburg, Pa.....	450	49.4	59.9	69.0	73.3	70.8	66.4	51.8	91.2
Mount Weather, Va.*..	1726	44.9	57.1	66.0	70.0	68.2	61.8	51.0	62.3
Washington, D. C.....	75	53.1	64.2	72.7	76.8	74.5	68.1	56.6	121.0
Harrisburg, Pa.....	368	50.7	61.7	70.3	74.5	72.1	64.9	54.0	98.2
New York City, N. Y..	314	48.5	59.4	69.0	74.5	72.8	65.9	55.2	96.8
Hartford, Conn.....	100	46.7	57.5	67.1	71.6	68.9	61.7	51.2	78.0
Albany, N. Y.....	97	46.7	59.2	68.4	72.3	70.5	62.5	50.2	83.1
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	750	51.0	62.6	71.1	74.6	72.5	66.1	54.9	102.8
Columbus, Ohio.....	744	51.1	62.5	71.0	75.2	72.7	66.9	54.7	104.1
Indianapolis, Ind.....	720	52.4	63.3	72.3	76.1	73.9	66.9	55.1	111.0
Evansville, Ind.....	384	55.1	67.0	75.0	78.6	78.1	71.6	59.4	134.8
Madison, Wis.....	860	45.6	57.6	67.5	72.0	69.8	62.3	50.0	79.0
Des Moines, Iowa.....	805	50.6	61.1	70.2	74.9	73.0	65.1	53.3	98.2
Omaha, Nebr.....	1034	50.5	62.5	71.6	76.5	74.4	65.8	54.2	105.5
Topeka, Kans.....	896	53.7	65.0	73.5	77.6	76.0	68.3	56.3	128.4

\* Mount Weather is on top of the Blue Ridge near our Nursery. Sunny Ridge Nursery is on the slope of the mountain, elevation 800-1400 feet. According to the rules of the meteorologists it should be between 1½ and three degrees warmer than Mount Weather. Therefore my total above 50° is probably about 73 at the top and 84 at the bottom.

Beat George Washington

It is now easy for you to beat George Washington in the *Pecan business*, because you can plant better trees than he could plant. You can plant *grafted* trees. He only had seedlings, and if there is any gamble that is loaded against you it is planting seedling Pecan trees. I've seen a row of them in southern Illinois planted from the best seed they could find. None gave nuts like the original seed, no two were alike, and nearly all were virtually worthless.

You can beat George Washington easily because the tens of thousands of wild trees of the Ohio Valley have been carefully searched, the best trees have been found and propagated, and you can now buy little trees with every expectation that they will yield nuts which you can crack in your hand, which will yield their kernels in entire halves and have a quality that is not only the equal of any Pecans from the South, but better.

Pecans of Highest Quality

At a national Pecan show at Mobile, Alabama, with all the big Pecans of the South present, the first prize for quality went to a Pecan from the Ohio Valley, the place our varieties originated. Why this high quality? It is a fact well known in horticultural science that many varieties of fruit and nuts often produce their best *quality* near the northern range of the species. The oranges of Florida and California are better than the oranges of Brazil or Cuba.

The Range of the Pecan

Where will the Pecan grow? It will grow much farther north than it can ripen its fruit. Seedlings from Texas thrive in the climate of Pennsylvania. There are a few healthy old seedling trees in Connecticut. A beautiful tree in a park at Hartford, Connecticut, had a girth of over 11 feet. It was apparently a southern

seedling planted in 1858. I have seen lusty Pecan trees in Ontario near Toronto, grown from Georgia seed in a place where they could not possibly ripen their fruit. The Pecan seems to require a large amount of summer heat to bring the nuts through to fruition. One measure of this heat is the total number of degrees of monthly average temperature above 50° F. The accompanying table shows some of these facts.

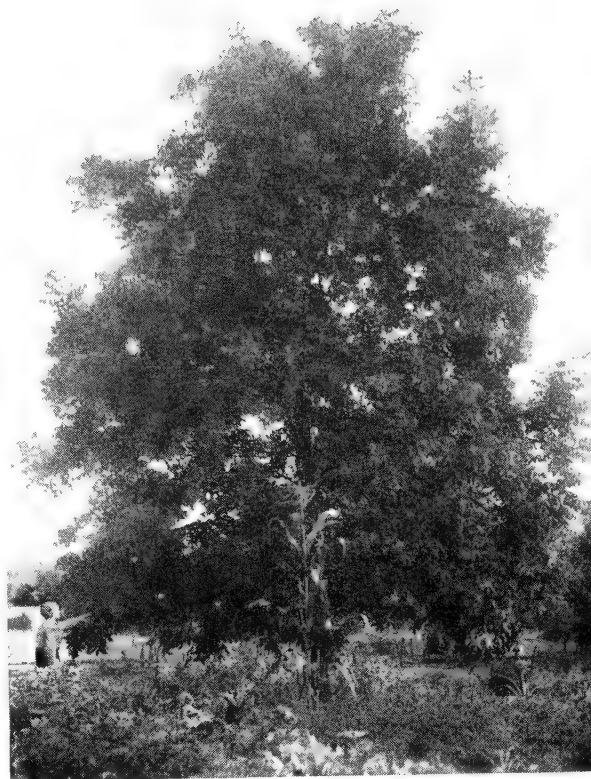
The varieties I sell have been perfectly hardy as to winters, and have ripened their nuts at the nursery. After two cool summers in the last twelve years the kernels were not developed fully enough to be commercially marketable, but they were of good flavor for home use.

Now the record at Ithaca (—35° F. winter 1933-34) is that the Pecans and Hiccans that I sell are hardy trees and make beautiful shade but do not ripen their nuts. They do ripen at my nursery and nearly every year at Lewisburg, Pa., 105 miles south of Ithaca and at a slightly lower elevation and with two weeks longer growing season. With this table, and the facts of your own local climate in hand, you can figure out the probabilities of your location better than I can. You will find Dr. Rehder's map (page 7) very helpful, and the U. S. Weather Bureau has records for all sections of the United States.

Therefore, by the aid of this table, you can, by knowing your own climate, decide what the chances are of the Pecan ripening its nuts with you.

Another way of testing your climate for Pecans is this: Can you grow dent corn? If so, you should try some Busseron Pecans and also the Indiana.

Since the limiting factor on ripening nuts is the number of warm days in the summer and the length of the growing season, there is bound to be a considerable area at the northern edge of the Pecan zone in which the trees will ripen their nuts some seasons while in other seasons they will not. But in any case you can be assured of a beautiful shade tree anywhere from Boston to Niagara Falls and southward. A gentleman from Westfield, N. Y., near Buffalo, writes: "I have Busseron Pecans that came through the winter of 1933-34, the coldest in 60 years." Since the cost is no more than many other shade trees, and they are very beautiful trees, you are quite justified in plant-



*Greenriver Pecan tree 24 years planted in a farm truck patch. Good for 50 lbs. of nuts now and one or two hundred larger crops in the days to come. Note the man. This is the parent tree from which come all the Greenriver trees we sell.*

ing a Pecan where the climate will knock you out of a half or two-thirds of the crops. The other half or third of the crops will be that much more than your maples or your elms will yield.

### Soil for the Pecan

The Pecan is a weak feeder. It must have fertile soil if it is to do its best, fertile soil and moisture. In nature it is usually a native of the alluvial lowland, and to get good large nuts you must put it in a good soil and feed it; feed it as you would a vegetable garden. It will make a beautiful tree in less fertile locations, but it will grow more slowly and bear smaller nuts. The glorious *Greenriver* tree pictured above stands in an upland truck patch on good clay soil. It has benefited by the care of the garden in which it stands.

After it recovers from transplanting, a well-fed Pecan tree will rival the maples in rate of growth.

## Shade for the Pasture Field

A Pecan or other nut tree is a perfect shade tree for the pasture lot, and the animals standing under it will automatically fertilize it with their droppings. Such has been the history of many a nut tree with a famous bearing record.

W. C. Reed & Son, of Indiana, are pioneer experimenters with northern Pecans. They report a crop as follows—

“Crop varied from twenty to fifty pounds per tree; think two trees bore seventy-five pounds each.

“Trees were planted twelve years ago on high clay land.

“They have been cultivated regularly.

“Were not fertilized, but were on good, strong land.

“Trees are from thirty to thirty-five feet tall.”

You have no overhead charge in pasture shade trees. It is overhead charge that kills so many farm profits.

Twenty or fifty or a hundred pounds of Pecans per tree at a harvest would make your shade trees look good in more ways than one, and Pecan trees live for two or three hundred years.

Planting Pecan trees in a meadow is policy. As soon as the trees are established it is a paid-up policy. That is why I am planting my 50 acres of creek bottom pasture in the Philadelphia climate of Northern Virginia Piedmont.

## Pecan Roots

The Pecan tree is not the nurseryman's joy. It has perfectly fiendish tap roots. The first year the little tree is about the size of a straw and the length of a lead pencil, but the root is the size of a lead pencil and twice as long, and I don't know whether the top ever catches up in bulk with the roots. I never saw all the roots of even a three-year-old Pecan tree, and if you had all the roots you would not know what in the world to do with them, because you would have to have a hole probably 5 or 6 feet deep and perhaps 8 or 10 feet wide. Because of this long root habit all our trees are transplanted, but even then digging them up is a major surgical operation. We cut the tops back heavily to balance the loss of root, and expect to pet the trees for the first two seasons while they are getting reestablished. After that they will, if well fed, grow from

1½ to 2½ feet on the terminals per year, and are really very effective shade trees, with a beautiful tropical appearance.

While I am myself planting 50 acres of them commercially in an alluvial meadow pasture near the nursery, I do not recommend the practice to my neighbors, unless they are exceptionally situated. What I recommend to you is one *Busseron* and one *Indiana* as a minimum start to pollinate each other and then as many more as circumstances warrant, so that you may be sure to have an abundant family supply of delicious, nutritious nuts. You need two varieties.

If you are in doubtful territory because of cool summers, omit the *Greenriver* variety because the *Busseron* and *Indiana* ripen earlier.

Many nurseries will sell you seedling Pecan trees at a very cheap price. If you buy them with any expectation of nuts, the chances are 999 to 1 that you will be greatly disappointed. You can also buy very cheap grafted Pecan trees from the South. They will make nice shade, but their nuts can be depended upon *not to ripen north of the Cotton Belt*, where they originated.

I moved a hundred *bare root*, 10-15 foot pecan trees. I cut off the tops and cut the branches back to short stubs. Ninety-eight lived and made a few inches of growth. The next year they made twice as much growth—about a foot. They will be 15 to 20 years old when they go with ball of earth to their final lawns.

## The Shagbark

### Tree for the Northern Range

The Shagbark is the safe, sure tree for the man of the North. The tree grows wild over almost all of northeastern United States.

Tens of thousands of farm boys have delighted to pick up Shagbarks all the way from Maine to Iowa, from Michigan to western North Carolina, and most of these boys have noticed that the nuts from some trees yield their kernels much more easily than others. In fact, the wild nut trees differ almost as much as wild apple trees, with here and there one that might be called a tree genius because its nuts are so much better than the rest.



*Imagine a Shagbark tree like this on your lawn, down your lane or in your pasture,  
and three or four bushels of nuts under it.*



*Some Hickory nuts, life size. F = Fairbanks. S = Stratford.*

## Search by the Northern Nut Growers Association

This organization of persons interested in nut trees in the North (see my price list) has been offering prizes and searching for the best wild nut trees in America for the last 30 years. As a result of this search many Shagbarks of unusual quality have been found. At least 60 varieties are now under test. Some of them yield many of their kernels in complete halves, so that the time has come for the Shagbark to become a lawn tree of double merit.

## The Growth of the Shagbark Tree

This tree, like the Pecan, also is *not* a nurseryman's delight. We can buy an apple root in December, graft it in February, plant it out in April, and have a one-year tree to sell in October. With the Shagbark, we buy the nuts in October, plant them in March. In two years we transplant the piddling little tree to keep it from sending its roots clear to China. It takes it about two years to recover from transplanting, after which it begins to grow. In the sixth or seventh year we can graft it. Then the surprise occurs. It staggers for a year and then begins to grow. Some of them will grow 2 or 3 feet a year. Sometimes even more if well fertilized. And if you put a grafted Shagbark in your lawn you can have a big tree much sooner than most persons would expect.

This tree differs from the Pecan in many respects. Not only will it grow in Maine, Vermont, upper New York, Michigan, Minnesota, but it is quite at home on good upland soils, as is shown by the way it grows in rocky upland woods and pastures in a dozen states.

## A Good Lawn Tree

Many people for some unknown reason cover their lawns with maples, which annihilate the grass with their dense foliage and multitude of surface roots. The Shagbark, like the Walnut and the Pecan, being a deep rooter, lets grass grow up close to it. Also its tall cylindrical shape is an aid to the grass, and it gives the trees a very distinctive and pleasing appearance.

## Fertilizing the Shagbark

Do not let the Shagbark deceive you by the fact that it grows naturally on upland soils. It likes fertilizer. Its bearing is likely to be very greatly influenced by the amount of plant food. There have been some startling results following the application of an abundance of phosphorous fertilizer to Shagbarks and other nut trees of the Hickory family. Therefore, I would suggest that you give the tree liberal supplies of fertilizer high in phosphorus and potash. If the tree is 20 feet high I would recommend 10 pounds of a commercial mixture of 4-12-4 or even 4-12-8, and if it is a 30-foot tree, give it 15 pounds, at least every other year. You are likely to be abundantly rewarded.

*Shagbark Varieties.* (See price list.)



## Hybrid Hickories

"What kind of a Hickory is this?" I ask an expert botanist when I get him out in my woods. "Well," he says, slowly and thoughtfully, "the nut looks something like a Mockernut (*Carya alba*), but the leaf is not exactly a Mockernut leaf, and the bark looks like Tightbark Pignut (*Carya glabra*)." Then his friend the other botanist says, "But look at the number of leaflets and the shape of those branches." The fact is, the tree is probably a hybrid—a natural hybrid. Indeed, many of the species of our forest trees mix rather freely with each other and produce hybrid offspring. Owing to the laws of genetics, the seedlings from these hybrid trees revert again and make trees like either parent and not like themselves.

Many of the nuts that have come in as candidates for prizes in the Northern Nut Growers Association's contests are hybrids, and fortunately one of the characteristics of some hybrid trees is great vigor of growth. I find that in testing out varieties by topworking them on wild trees in the woods the hybrids are much easier to graft than the purebreds, and two of them which I have for sale are much more precocious and prolific than the purebreds. These two varieties, the *Fairbanks* and the *Stratford*, are both natives of Iowa. Both appear to be at least half Shagbark. Both of them begin to bear in the third or fourth season after being grafted on the wild tree in the woods, and a grafted nursery tree will bear as soon as apple trees or even sooner than some, if properly fed.

The flavor of these nuts is gratifying, and if you have room for several trees you should certainly have one of each. They seem to be as hardy as pure Shagbarks and can be planted in its range. For the lawn they have all the virtues of the true Shagbark. The *Fairbanks* grows almost as rapidly as a maple tree. *Fairbanks* has lived and ripened in the 40-50 degrees below zero area near Minneapolis.

The experimenter who is going to graft wild trees should by all means use a few *Stratford*. They are so encouraging to the beginner—easy to graft, and they bear so soon, and they keep it up year after year. Some of mine, top-worked on wild trees in a rocky cow pasture, have not missed producing a good crop for six years, including drought years, but the trees were *manured* once.

A farmer's wife of my acquaintance has a local reputation for nut salad—Fairbanks nuts, tree from my Nursery.

## The Hiccan

The Pecan also indulges in this natural-hybridizing business, and, being a Hickory, there are some natural hybrids of Pecan and other Hickories. These are called Hiccans and I offer some of them which show their hybrid character by growing almost as rapidly as maple trees. That old idea that all nut trees are slow growers certainly does not apply to these Hiccans.

Some trees of this parentage grow with great speed. They have rich, dark foliage, but most of them are shy bearers. On that account I have discarded some despite their beauty and speed of growth. (See price list.)

## The English (Persian) Walnut (*Juglans Regia*)

The trees that give us this delicious nut are supposed to be natives of Persia, from which center they have spread both east and west and circumnavigated the globe. I have seen them in Japan, Korea, China, the valleys of the Himalayas, Persia, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, and then right across Europe from Constantinople to Edinburgh by way of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, England. In the eastern United States they are scattered from Massachusetts to Illinois, from New York to North Carolina, while we have a thoroughly established industry with many orchards on the Pacific coast, chiefly in California.

The finest trees I ever saw were in a valley of the Taurus Mountains in southern Turkey, while the ruins of the Roman city of Baalbek in Syria are bordered in splendid Persian Walnut trees.

To the eastern United States this tree is a foreigner. It is a native of a climate with a mild winter and a dry summer, somewhat like that of California. This may explain the puzzling experience that many people have had with it in the eastern parts of the United States.

There are thousands of trees, nearly all seedlings, therefore each one a law to itself, scattered over the country, east of

the Mississippi River, north of the Cotton Belt and south of upper New England and upper Michigan. Encouraged by one of these examples someone buys a tree from a nursery (as I did), probably a seedling of unknown origin, and it usually dies. Yet there is that old tree in So-and-so's yard nearby that lives and bears crops of good nuts. Why did the nursery tree die? Then the tree planter hears that English Walnuts are growing on the shores of Lake Ontario. Hope rises again. He gets a tree from that area, and it may die in Maryland of what is called winterkill, when it had not done so on the shore of Lake Ontario.

Why these puzzling troubles? The answer is now reasonably well known. He has violated one of the three English Walnut "Musts" which are not difficult to follow if we just know. The three English Walnut "Musts" for the eastern United States are:

First "Must": *Get the right variety.*

The first attempt by the uninitiated to get the right English Walnut variety has usually been to get a good nut and plant it. That is the way I began. Now it so happens that the English Walnut tree seems to have an almost greater affinity for the pollen of some other species than for its own. For years a famous Walnut tree stood in Berks County, Pa., producing fine crops of good nuts. The thrifty Pennsylvania German farmers carried them away by the thousand and planted them out, and they invariably got on their trees a sharp, spiny-hulled nut that resembled a butternut. The reason was that this English Walnut tree was pollinated

regularly by a butternut tree that stood about a quarter of a mile away to the northwest.

My first nut tree was an English Walnut seedling. The parent tree is still bearing good nuts, but my seedling froze the first winter. I wonder what its father was?

To get the right kind of an English Walnut tree you must get a grafted tree.

There has been much search among the thousands of trees growing in the United States. Some reliable parent trees with high quality nuts have been found. One of them, the Wiltz-Mayette, has proved hardy in many an Eastern experimental planting. I have seen small trees of this variety from my own nursery hanging with as full a crop of nuts as a Black Walnut tree near by was bearing.

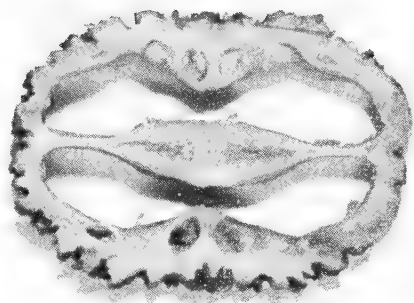
I have Wiltz-Mayette trees grafted on Black Walnut roots, and also a very promising new variety called Broadview, the parent tree of which grew from a nut brought to this country by a man from Odessa, Russia. This tree vindicates its Russian origin by surviving 28° F. below zero in British Columbia, and it may in a few years be regarded as the best of all English Walnuts for frost land.

Second "Must": *The soil must be right*, that is, fertile, well drained and *carrying as much lime as is necessary for sweet clover or alfalfa*, namely pH 6.5 to pH 7.0. This lime requirement is not unnatural when one considers that virtually all the soils in countries having the semiarid climate in which this tree originated are somewhat alkaline.



*An English Walnut tree on a lawn in Washington, D. C.*

Many a little English Walnut tree has gone out of an American nursery to an American garden or yard where it looked unhappy, stood hesitant despite apparent good care, and finally quit for no known reason—probably for want of lime. Strange to say, this need for lime is necessary for the English Walnut trees grafted on Black Walnut roots, although the Black Walnut tree itself can get along without the lime. Furthermore, one experimenter reports that before a good liming the leafhoppers ate the leaves off his English Walnut tree, and after a liming the leafhoppers let it alone—a good illustration of the oft-claimed point: Give a tree all it needs for food and it will have far less trouble with pests and will be much more resistant to diseases.



*Section of Thomas Black Walnut shell. The shape shows why kernels come out easily.*

The third English Walnut “Must”: *No late growth.* The way to kill an English Walnut tree for sure in the latitude of Pittsburgh, New York or Maryland is to cultivate it thoroughly all summer, give it lots of nitrogenous fertilizer like hen manure, and keep it in rapid growth until October. It will go into winter looking like the green bay tree of Scripture and come out looking as though it had been in a fire. This late growth does not have time to harden up and ripen, and so falls an easy victim to frost. Therefore the lawn is an especially favorable place for the English Walnut. If you wish to fertilize it give it some cyanamid or other quickly soluble alkaline nitrate in the early spring—middle of March, say, or not later than the first of April. Let it make one period of growth and stop. If it is in a garden, don’t cultivate it after August 1st. Let the weeds and grass grow and choke it down. Give it plenty of phosphorus and plenty of potash. They harden the wood and make nuts. Let the nitrogen food come from quickly soluble chemicals.

Follow these three easy “Musts” and plant some grafted English Walnut trees and you are likely to be independent of the grocer for English Walnuts.

New varieties from Poland are being tested. Watch our price list for what we think worthy of planting.

### Grafted Black Walnuts

Everyone knows how good the American Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is, but it is not generally known that it is the best of all nuts for *cooking* purposes. It carries its flavor right through the oven; other nuts do not. This gives it a market with the makers of nut bread, and



*Top, Busseron Pecan and Kernel. Lower, Greenriver, both life size.*

the confectioners. The ice-cream makers also like to buy the kernels by the ton. For these reasons an industry is starting in the growing of Black Walnuts in commercial orchards.

As a result of wide search through thousands of wild trees, some 50 or 60 varieties are now being tested by various members of the Northern Nut Growers Association. I am offering grafted trees of several varieties:

The *Thomas* (Map, p. 7, Zone IV, III, west of Lake Michigan) has the following characteristics:

(1) It grows about twice as fast as an apple tree.

(2) It bears as soon as most apple trees. I have had large-size *Thomas* Walnut trees to bear a few nuts the year after setting out. This, however, is unusual.

(3) The outside of the hull is hard. This is an important point. It keeps away most of the Walnut beetles. The larva of this insect is the unpleasant husk maggot.

(4) Most of the kernels come out of the shells in whole quarters, about ten pounds of kernels to the bushel.

(5) The kernels are of unusually fine flavor.

(6) The tree has proved hardy and fruitful in southern Ontario, at Ithaca, New York, near Rutland, Vermont, in Iowa and in west central Texas. A grower at Clyde, Texas, reports eight consecutive crops. May be expected to bear as often as wild Walnut trees bear, and oftener if well fertilized. The Black Walnut loves food.

I think enough of the *Thomas* variety to have planted dozens of the trees in my bluegrass pastures, and I have topworked other dozens along the fence rows and glades, where they have grown up on an abandoned farm that I have bought and use for a pasture.

The Black Walnut is not particular as to soils except that it does not share the Pecan ability to thrive with wet feet. It will grow on your dry hill tops and is not fussy about lime or the absence of it. It responds greatly to fertilizer. Roll it on—horse manure, cow manure, hen manure, chemicals. Roll it on and watch the tree develop dark-green foliage, long new twigs, clusters of nuts. (See price list for other varieties.)

### Butternuts

The butternut (*Juglans cinera*), sometimes called White Walnut, is at home

farther north than the black walnut. The tree looks much like the black walnut. The nut is longer than the black walnut, the kernel is not quite so large and the flavor is milder. Some prefer it to the black walnut and it has many friends in the north.

I have learned how to graft them, am testing several varieties, and will soon have grafted trees for sale. Watch our price list.

### Filberts

The Filberts include the European, called Filbert, and the American, commonly called Hazel nut. These trees tend to produce side shoots below the ground and assume the appearance of a bush 15-20 feet high with their thick tops. They make excellent screens in addition to yielding a good nut. The Hazel makes smaller growth but is an excellent producer of good nuts.

### The Persimmon

Captain John Smith when exploring Virginia was much impressed by the excellence and value of the Persimmon and praised it in his writings. From that time to this it has been eaten freely by every generation of humans that has lived in the Chesapeake country, also by opossums, raccoons, dogs, and every animal on the farms. I cannot understand why so good a fruit, so productive a tree, and one so easy to grow has been neglected so completely by the horticulturists. Perhaps it is because the tree is a veritable pest, growing wild, as it does on the fields, which it holds because no animal will eat its foliage, and the tree itself keeps on coming after much cutting off of suckers, and even sprouts up from the roots after digging. It grows wild from New York City to Kansas and South nearly to the Gulf. Many of the wild trees load themselves with fruit almost to the breaking point.

A United States Department of Agriculture bulletin reports that it is the most nutritious fruit, excepting the date, grown in the United States. Certainly the farmers who have fought the trees and tried to kill them will attest their easiness to grow, although unfortunately it is not a particularly easy tree to transplant.

The fruit of a good American Persimmon like the varieties I sell is delicious.



*Fruiting branch of Kansas Persimmon, natural size. Our Chinese Persimmons are about twice that size.*

It is a very satisfactory yard tree, good to look at, of cylindrical form, spreading not more than about 25 to 30 feet even when 40 or 50 feet tall. In the fall the Persimmons will almost make a balanced ration if eaten with nuts and greens.

You should have two varieties for cross pollination, and the fact that they are

thriving in Connecticut and in southern Iowa would seem to indicate that they are safe trees to grow as far north as northern Pennsylvania and the southern shores of the Great Lakes, but I cannot exactly draw the northern range limit. In the attempt to make them as hardy as possible, I am growing my trees on seed from Missouri and Iowa.



*A Chinese persimmon tree top worked on wild persimmon on an abandoned farm. Owing to the film famine (war) a good part of this crop had fallen. They were beautiful as they shone, rich orange color (almost) in the November sun.*





*A single cluster of Pawpaws  $\frac{1}{2}$  natural size. These fruits were a little less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches long and the cluster weighed 13 oz.*

### The Pawpaw

Perhaps you never heard of a Pawpaw. Well, if not, it is time you did, and if you have not it shows how completely we Americans have swallowed European agriculture whole and neglected the things that were at our very door.

The Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a fruitful lowland tree that grows from New York to Kansas, and from Alabama to southern Ontario. If you have a yard of any size you should have one in it for its sheer beauty. Its compact, firm-looking corrugated foliage has a dark richness not given by any other tree known to me. If you get one on your lawn you will certainly have something that is unique in your neighborhood and unique among trees. In addition to its beauty it has a fruit which has a certain resemblance to the late Theodore Roosevelt—you will *like it* or you will *not like it*. It is a rival to the Persimmon in nutritive quality, looks not unlike a banana, and smells something like a banana. Its taste—well, you will have to taste one to see. Most

people like it very much. It has a rich flavor, a buttery, melting consistency, and if you can get enough of them you may get into trouble with the scales because it will certainly tempt you to eat and grow fat—unless you happen to be one of those few people who do not like that particular flavor. In that case you can make presents to your friends.

The fruits are produced singly, in pairs, sometimes in clusters of four or even more, and I have seen single fruits as much as 6 inches long.

The tree will probably not grow more than 20 or 25 feet high and 10 or 12 feet wide. It can stand partial shade such as would be furnished by a tall Pecan tree, and if you happen to keep a goat you can keep him and the Pawpaw tree together and they will not hurt each other. For some reason not known to us, the foliage seems to be abhorred by all domestic animals. I have a pasture that is littered with Pawpaws. It has been frequented by horses, cows, mules, sheep, and Angora goats. None of them have touched the

Pawpaw unless to use it to brush off flies. You will probably need two trees for pollination. If space is close, they can be planted within a couple of feet of each other and will fuse into one clump. In nature they have a tendency to grow in thickets.

I do not know that the soil requirements are peculiar. It stands out in my open cow pasture, but an annual mulching of leaves 3 or 4 feet in diameter and allowed to rot, would make close resemblance to its commonest habitat.

These trees are not easy to transplant and therefore they need as much care for the first two years as a Persimmon or Hickory. (V, IV, west of Lake Erie.)

### The Mulberry

If you love birds or small boys or hens to the point of wishing to have them around, you should have at least one Mulberry tree on the premises. I have one in my yard that yields fruit from late May until mid August, and this fruit is harvested without any trouble to me by birds, boys, and hens. The Mulberry is also good for grownups to eat as well as for boys, and when I want to have a dish of Mulberries and cream, I spread a large sheet under a Mulberry tree, shake the fruit onto it, then roll the Mulberries into a pan.

Some people think that it is a fine thing to have a Mulberry tree so that the birds will eat the Mulberries instead of cherries. I don't vouch for this, but certainly the birds like Mulberries.

The Mulberry tree is one of the most fruitful trees known, particularly the everbearing varieties, like the ones which I offer. Perhaps one reason the tree is able to produce such quantities of fruit is the fact that it never carries its whole crop at one time. While some Mulberries are ripe,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, as thick as your little finger, others are little embryos about the size of a grain of wheat, so that the tree that produces a half ton of fruit may never have more than 200 pounds on at one time.

They are certainly a good use to make of the poultry yard space because the chickens love to pick them up and eat them.

In parts of North Carolina an acre or so of Mulberries is a common part of the system for providing the family pork. I have seen farmer after farmer in that

state who was perfectly sure that an acre of everbearing Mulberries, with its 10 to 12 weeks of automatic pig feeding, did him as much good as an acre of corn—and note this—the pigs did the harvesting, while the trees needed no cultivation.

The tree is easy to transplant, a rapid grower, and a great encouragement to the beginning horticulturist because, in addition to these qualities, it gets into bearing very early, and sometimes it will make a second set of buds if the frost kills the first ones.

### Honey Locust

When it comes to awarding the first prize for neglected opportunities in American crop plants, we would have a hard run between the Persimmon and the Honey Locust, but I think the prize goes to the Honey Locust because of its great promise as a forage crop and possibly a National sugar supply.

The Honey Locust tree bears beans. Some of them are long beans having sugary nutriment in the pods around the seeds. Indeed, the Honey Locust pod is one of the richest sugar plants known, and the beans from thousands of different trees in half a dozen different states have been greedily eaten by cattle for decades, and the farmer did not seem to see that here was a great potential crop.

### Stock Food That Grows on Trees and Has No Harvest Cost

Some years ago I offered prizes for the best beans and one lot measured 16 inches long, weighed 17 to the pound when bone dry and analyzed 29% sugar. Further search has brought in beans analyzing 35% sugar. The seed is high in protein. In rare trees it is embedded in sugary pulp that is sometimes sticky like honey. That explains why children and farm stock eat these pods so keenly. Millions of children have eaten them. Miss Williams, the owner of a 400-acre farm in Georgia, reports that she has "a great many trees in pastures where the cattle can pick up the pods as they fall." She makes it a point to set out young trees whenever labor is available in the spring. She also collects pods from trees growing in situations other than pastures and grinds many of these into a cattle meal. She states that by grinding the pods, the seeds are made available for food. She has been utilizing Honey Locust pods for many years.

Miss Williams estimated that she has several hundred trees on her approximately 400 acres of land, and that the yield one year was approximately 1,500 bushels of pods. She notes that there is a great variation in the characteristics of the various trees on her property.

Miss Williams states that very often several head of young stock are left out all winter to feed on the Honey Locust and that such animals are in excellent condition in the spring.

Another farmer says "and all bear an awful big crop of beans, which the stock like so well that they will break down the fence to get them."

I know one farmer in North Carolina who regularly gathers Honey Locust beans, grinds them in a swing hammer sand machine, mixes them with ground grains as a part of his standard ration for the dairy cows.

I have a few trees grown from cions from the trees producing beans that analyze above 30% sugar. Persons who wish to enrich their pastures and check soil erosion should experiment with these trees.

The farm animals will do the harvesting, although we have the possibility at a later date of growing the nation's sugar supply on these trees and at the same time having cow feed made from the refuse, just as we do from the sugar-beet factory.

The Honey Locust appears to be a kind of goat among trees. It grows farther out in the Great Plains than any other tree producing a useful harvest, and trees grown from Georgia cions have proved perfectly hardy for the past six or seven years in Connecticut. Therefore it seems to be safe to try out the Tennessee Valley trees as far north as Massachusetts, central New York, southern Michigan, southern Wisconsin.

The stocks upon which mine are grafted are grown from seed produced in Nebraska, where they have resisted heat, drought, blizzards, and extremely low temperatures.

The tree is easy to transplant. I have planted them out in pastures, with very few losses. Don't make the mistake of letting this statement cause you to abuse a good tree. A mulch will be helpful.

The Tennessee Experiment Station reports that blue grass grew *better* in pastures with walnut trees. Partial shade helps grass in hot weather. A great vir-



*Young Pawpaw tree. No uncolored picture can show the full beauty of the peculiar deep green Pawpaw foliage.*

tue of Honey Locust for the pasture is the thin, open foliage, which lets a great deal of light through, so that grass can grow beneath the tree. In addition to being easy to transplant, the trees are rapid growers. The wood is beautiful, durable and strong.

Some trees of this species are very thorny, but the varieties I offer are almost thornless, and the tree is a very beautiful yard tree.

Try some, especially if you happen to have the great gift of Curiosity or wish to experiment. There is a full account of the Honey Locust in the book **TREE CROPS**; written by J. Russell Smith and in most good libraries.

We need to find two or three honey locust trees in the North that are worthy of propagation. I appeal to the readers of this booklet to keep their eyes open for such trees and send me samples of the pods, beans and all.

The tree grows wild in New England, Michigan, Wisconsin, southern Minne-

sota, and it is very important that we get good, productive strains from the northern range.

The beans should be imbedded in a sugary pulp, and the pods should be a foot long at least. If they do not taste good to you, don't send them. Some are bitter.

The high sugar content suggests a hill-grown sugar crop in the not distant future if we use our heads.

### When to Plant Our Trees

If you plant in the spring plant as early as you can. Don't put it off. Give the tree a chance to get settled into the earth and start its roots to drawing nutriment therefrom. From New York and Pittsburgh southward you can plant in November.

### Planting the Tree

Don't buy a good tree and then neglect it. I want my trees to be well treated.

Nut trees have great root systems. It is certainly true that young Hickories and Pecans have *more root than top*. If you had *all* the roots of such a tree you would need a hole almost as deep as a well and as wide as a small house foundation in which to plant it. Transplanting such trees is an act of violence at best. The tops should be reduced to match the reduction of roots. Therefore, *I trim all trees severely unless buyer especially requests otherwise*. I also wax the trunks with a thin wax emulsion. This gives transplanting a higher percentage of success because the wax keeps the trunk from sending out so much of the limited supply of moisture.

One of my fellow experimenters planted 700 nut trees in the spring of 1937 and lost 1%, but he wrapped the roots of every tree with wet burlap while carrying it from the bale to the hole. The nut trees do not make fibrous roots of size that can be moved except with ball of earth. It is very important that the roots do not get at all dry in planting.

In planting the tree be sure that there is room for roots to spread out as far as

possible and that earth is carefully worked in so that it touches *every part of every root*. After this is done pour in water until it stands in the hole. Then joggle the roots a little to establish perfect *mud* contact. If you have to carry this water, *carry it*. It's cheap insurance for such a tree.

In filling up the hole leave a basin that will hold two buckets of water, and if the ground slopes make little drains so that shower runoff will run into the basin.

It is an excellent plan to immerse the root end of your unopened bundle of trees in water for the night before you plant them out. The drink they get helps them through the next days.

### Care Immediately after Planting

We beg that the trees be protected by clean cultivation or by 3 or 4 foot radius of *straw, old hay or paper mulch for the first two years*, and *watered* if drought comes. It is really scandalous the way some people will pay good money for trees and then kill the trees by neglect. *I want your trees to grow*. You should by all means buy our little booklet on planting care and fertilization of nut trees; see our price list.

All this may sound a bit fussy, but remember you are winding up something that will run for centuries. George Washington's Pecans are still growing and the English Walnut trees in a certain forester's yard, in Poland, are said to be 300 years old and yielding 1200 pounds of nuts per tree at a full crop.

We do our best, but like other nurserymen we give no guarantees. In this booklet we have done our level best to state the up-to-date facts, but we would remind our readers that there is much that we yet need to know about the locations for particular kinds of trees.

### References

Round Hill National Bank, Round Hill, Va.; Swarthmore National Bank, Swarthmore, Pa.



*Honey Locust tree 12 feet high in my pasture. The sheep leave good grass to devour these beans as fast as they fall. Every animal on the farm knows and likes the taste of sugar. It fattens. The beans drop over a period of several weeks. An excellent autumn pasture supplement, lasting for weeks after frost.*

### **Business Address**

The nursery is on the Blue Ridge mountain side in northern Virginia about fifteen miles from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, but the sales office is in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

There are two men at the little nursery who know trees and love them and are expert shippers. At Swarthmore another careful person writes out shipping instructions and answers queries, but there are not many more things that we can tell. This booklet is an attempt to answer all your questions at once. The rest of the answers are in the reading matter mentioned in the price list. Please do not ask us to ship immediately; two days of rain followed by two days of mud are due any time. PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE OR CALL AT SWARTHMORE ON NUT BUSINESS. We are not fixed to do business that way at Swarthmore. It is strictly a mail order office. Letters will receive prompt attention.

J. RUSSELL SMITH.

If you do not have our price list write for it.

**Address all communications**

**SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY**  
**Swarthmore, Pa.**



# GREAT EXCITEMENT ON OUR MOUNTAIN-SIDE

## *The Chinese Persimmons Arrive!*

Like most travelers in China I fell in love with the Chinese persimmons while in Peiping one autumn some years ago.

As with the apple in America the persimmon in China has been developed into many varieties of large size and it holds a position comparable to that of the apple in the United States.

Near the famous Ming Tombs not far from Peiping I ate little wild persimmons the size of the end of your thumb, and very good. Near by were orchards of the horticultural varieties loaded with beautiful orange-colored fruit 3 and 4 inches in diameter, seedless, and delicious.

These fruits are picked hard, taken to the home of the consumer while they are still hard, laid away in a cool place until they become soft enough to eat with a spoon. Then you spoon the soft pulp out of the skins. If you are not careful you will offend Miss Emily Post by smacking your lips. In China these large persimmons are also dried and used as we use prunes and figs.

Knowing that the climate of Peiping has average July and January temperatures almost identical with those of Omaha, Nebraska, I set out to supply myself with the hardiest strains of persimmons I could find. I searched through Korea, and the area north of Peiping up to the base of the Great Wall (there are no persimmons grown north of the Great Wall). I also sent couriers into the western plateau province of Shansi. You can share the results of these expensive efforts by the very simple method of buying some of the trees from my little nursery. I got very quick results by grafting cions of these importations on to native American persimmon trees in an abandoned field.

Some of these varieties have now been on my Blue Ridge mountain-side for eight summers and have borne fine crops of delicious fruit. These are worthy of testing by other experimenters. I am now trying out about 40 varieties but have had most of them too short a time to know much about them other than that they start off beautifully. They help to make my summer a season of thrills. Each year my price list and news bulletins will report progress.

The Chinese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*) is a tree of unusual beauty with very dark green, thick, glossy leaves almost like an orange tree. I am planting one near my porch where we may enjoy its foliage all summer. After the leaves fall the orange-colored fruits shine in the sun and make the tree itself a striking autumn ornament. The fruit should be allowed to stay on until after frost. Autumn leaf—color of some is a dark Chinese red that I have never seen elsewhere except in lacquer. It is a color of marvelous beauty and a week of this foliage is of itself sufficient reason to own a tree.

Thus far both tree and fruit have been remarkably free from pests. But do not plant them without reading our booklet about planting, fertilization and care.

**SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY**

(For address see previous page)